

Media Release

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TCCI Determines Not to Proceed With Education Funding Options Study

Statement by Robert Wallace – TCCI Chief Executive Officer

Tasmania's peak employer body, the Tasmanian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (TCCI), has determined to not accept State Government funding to undertake a study into future funding options for a private education body.

TCCI Chief Executive Officer, Robert Wallace, said that the TCCI initially entered into discussions with the Department of Education in November 2009 with a view to exploring the broader concept of private philanthropy to support the promotion of education in Tasmania.

The State Government agreed to partner with the TCCI and contribute up to \$80,000 toward a study which would report back by 30 April 2010.

"The study was not specifically about the existing Tasmanian Education Foundation, but was a much broader exercise to explore the concept of a private entity supported by philanthropic funds to promote the value of education.

"We still believe there is merit in the study and want to see the business community take a stronger interest in the long term future of education in Tasmania."

Mr Wallace said that following discussions with the Department it had been agreed that the study would not be progressed during the current politically sensitive election environment.

"The TCCI is a totally independent organisation. To ensure we are perceived as independent we have decided not to accept funding for the study at this time.

"The purpose of the study remains worthy and can appropriately be considered by the Government post-election," Mr Wallace said.

Mr Wallace rejected media suggestions that the study was a fundraising exercise.

For more information contact:

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The TCCI is an independent and member funded not-for-profit organisation that represents 2,800 Tasmanian businesses and supporters who collectively employ 75,000 Tasmanians.

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